BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Issue: 04-45 November 12, 2004

- **British Columbia's economy grows 2.5% in 2003**
- **Exports of BC products slip 1.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in September**
- **Housing starts down (-20.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) again in October**

The Economy

- **British Columbia's economy expanded 2.5% in 2003, marking the first time since 1996 that the province has grown faster than the national average (+2.0%).** Newfoundland & Labrador (+6.8%) posted the strongest growth among the provinces for the second year in a row, maintaining solid gains as offshore oil activities at Hibernia continued to fuel growth. Saskatchewan (+4.5%) also had a good year. Agriculture & logging recovered after three years of decline and the province also benefited from a stronger mining, oil & gas sector. Alberta (+2.7%) grew slightly faster than BC, while New Brunswick's economy (+2.5%) expanded at the same rate as BC's. NWT (+20.8%) continued to make a strong showing, largely on the strength of its mining industry, which generates about half of the territory's total GDP. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a per capita basis, real GDP in the province increased 1.6% during 2003, outpacing the national average (+1.1%) for the second year in a row.** However, real per capita GDP in British Columbia ($32,175) remains well below the national average ($34,629). Among the regions, NWT ($87,097) had the highest per capita GDP, and recorded the strongest increase (+18.8%) in 2003. Alberta ($41,015) had the second highest per capita GDP in the country, followed by Yukon ($38,195) and Ontario ($37,515). BC was ranked sixth among the regions, just slightly behind Saskatchewan ($32,179). Newfoundland ($29,984), which traditionally has had the lowest real GDP per capita in the country, has moved ahead in recent years, and in 2003 was ranked eighth among the regions. PEI ($24,427) is now at the back of the pack. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **GDP growth in BC continued to be consumer and business driven, with final domestic demand for goods and services increasing significantly (+3.7%) during 2003.** Business investment in fixed capital soared (+7.4%) as a residential building boom (+14.8%) continued for the third straight year. At the same time, spending on non-residential structures (+4.1%) recovered from a slump in 2002, while investment in machinery and equipment (+1.3%) rose modestly after falling in the previous year. Consumer spending remained robust (+3.3%), while governments increased their purchases of goods and services at a somewhat more moderate rate (+2.0%). The news was not all rosy, however. Total exports edged up just 0.3%, boosted by Canadian demand for BC products. The province's international exports declined 1.4% in 2003. Strong demand for imported goods and services (+3.7%) from the rest of the world as well as other parts of Canada contributed to a worsening of the province's overall trade deficit. Corporation profits increased 11.2% (unadjusted for inflation) in 2003. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a per capita basis, real after tax income in the province edged up 0.3% to $19,758 in 2003.** However, after-tax income in the province remains below the national average ($20,304). Among the regions, the three territories have the highest after tax personal income, ranging from $27,345 in Nunavut to $32,575 in NWT. This reflects higher wages paid to residents of the north, as well as other incentives intended to help offset the high cost of living in remote areas of the country. Among the provinces, Alberta ($22,655) and Ontario ($21,463) lead the way, followed by BC.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Report Intraprovincial migration

Did you know...

Non-fiction (45%) and mysteries or thrillers (29%) are the most popular choices for summer reading in BC. Only 7% of those surveyed said they would prefer to read Canadian authors.

- **British Columbia's construction industry posted the strongest growth of any major industry in 2003, expanding 9.7% during the year.** The wholesale trade industry saw a 7.4% gain, which was at least partly related to the building boom in the province. For the first time since 1999, public administration grew faster than the all-industry average, expanding 6.3% as the output of both the provincial (+7.1%) and local (+12.7%) governments increased, while defence spending was boosted 4.7%. Manufacturing as a whole grew just 1.9%, but the pulp, paper & paperboard (+11.5%) and wood (+3.4%) industries both made solid gains. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Exports of BC products slipped 1.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) between August and September, as international shipments levelled off after soaring earlier in the year.** Forest product exports, accounting for about 45% of the total, inched up 0.3%, but shipments of energy (-11.7%) and machinery, equipment & automobiles (-4.0%) slumped. Exports to the US fell 1.0%, largely due to a decline in the value of energy shipments (-9.4%). Shipments to other destinations were down 2.1%, reflecting a 17.0% drop in the value of energy products. In addition, exports of machinery, equipment & automobiles to overseas destinations fell 16.8%. Canadian exports decreased 3.4% in September, and exports to the US were off 2.7%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **During the third quarter, the value of BC's exports to the US and other destinations increased 2.5% (*seasonally adjusted*).** Exports to the US rose 4.6% as shipments of all major commodities were up. High prices continued to boost the value of energy shipments to the US, which advanced 17.7% in the third quarter, following strong gains earlier in the year. At the same time, the forest sector continued to see export growth (+2.9%) but at a substantially lower rate than in the second quarter, when forest product exports to the US increased 20.8%. However, sales to overseas destinations were not as robust, edging down 1.1% in the third quarter after posting strong gains earlier in the year. Forest product exports to overseas destinations fell 9.8%. This was partly offset by strong gains in exports of industrial & consumer products (+10.5%), but weak energy exports (+0.8%) helped keep the lid on overseas export growth.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Housing

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two biggest metropolitan areas continued to climb in September, as a three-year-long upturn in prices continued.** House prices in Victoria were 8.7% higher than in September 2003, reflecting the effect of rising land values, as well as more expensive housing. In Vancouver, the inflationary pressure continued to come from housing rather than land prices, which have changed little in recent months. Vancouver's New Housing Price Index was up 5.5% in September, increasing slightly less than the national average (+5.8%). Victoria posted the biggest increase in the country, followed by Winnipeg, where housing prices were 8.5% higher than in September 2003. *Data Source: CMHC*

- **Housing starts in the province fell (-20.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) for the second straight month in October.** Nationally, the number of starts was down 5.4%. Starts declined or were flat in most parts of the country. Saskatchewan (+20.0%) and PEI (+28.6%) were the only exceptions. Among the larger provinces, Alberta (+1.9%) posted a modest increase, but there were fewer starts in both Ontario (-3.1%) and Quebec (-4.9%). *Data Source: CMHC*

Infant Mortality Among Aboriginals

- **Infant mortality rates for aboriginal children are more than twice as high as in the rest of the population, but have been declining.** From 1981 to 2000, infant mortality rates for aboriginals living in rural areas of the province fell 64%, while those living in urban parts of BC saw mortality rates drope 47%. The higher rates of infant mortality among aboriginals are largely due to preventable causes, such as sudden infant death syndrome, infections and external causes. *Data Source: SC, The Daily*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Issue: 04-45
November 12, 2004

Contact: Warren Munroe (250) 387-0334
Originally published in *Migration Highlights*, Issue 04-2. Annual Subscription $30 +GST

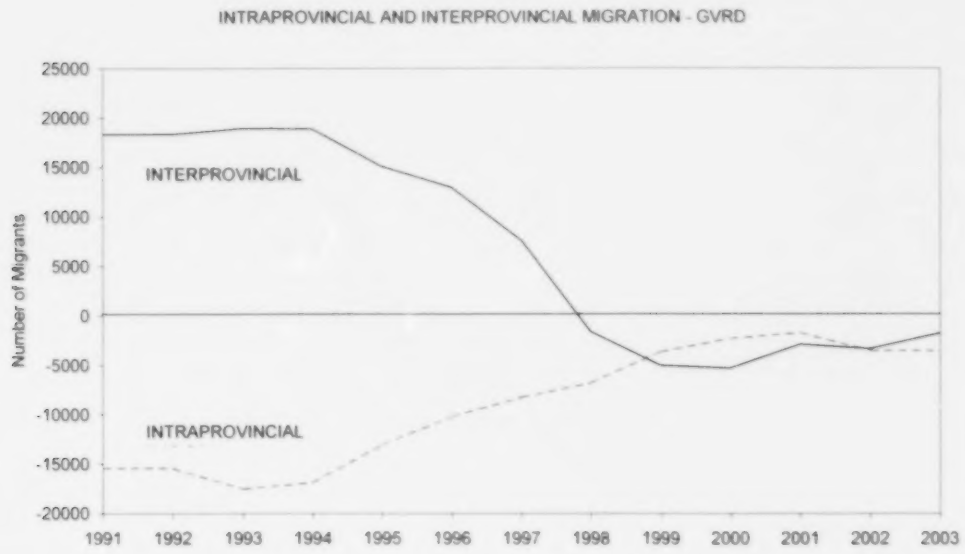
Intrapovincial Migration

Summary
Migration is considered to be an important contributor to population change for British Columbia. International migration often receives the greatest attention as it is often viewed as providing much needed foreign capital and skills. Interprovincial migration also receives considerable attention as it is considered to be an indicator of prosperity relative to the rest of the country. However, the importance of intraprovincial migration, or the movement of people within the province, provides a fundamental understanding of regional economic cycles and the interactivity between various sources of migration.

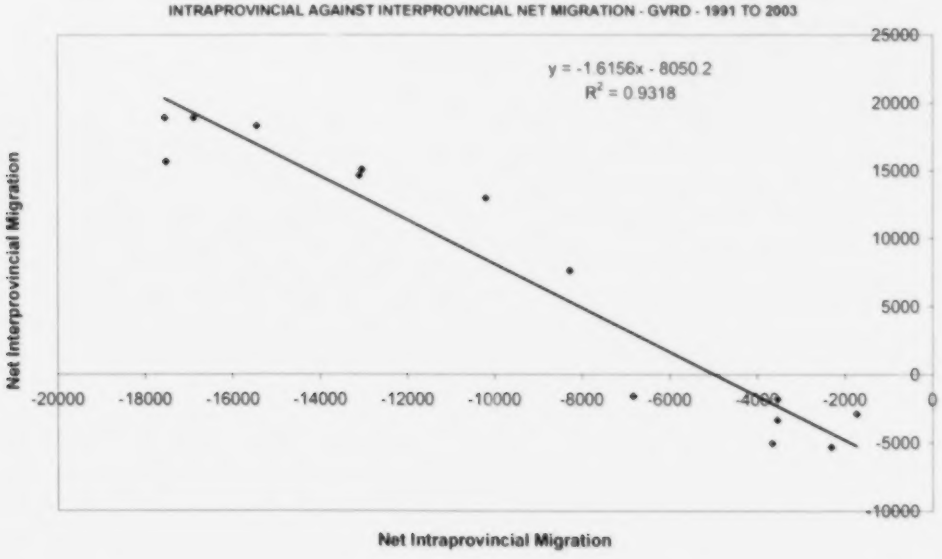
Overview
Intraprovincial migration refers to migration between areas within the province. Data for intraprovincial migration is available for Regional Districts (RDs) for the years from 1986 to 2003. Variations in migration within the province highlight the differences between highly populated RDs and those RDs with relatively low numbers of people. The highly populated areas are often referred to as core areas and are exemplified by high density, while areas with low numbers of residents are referred to as peripheral areas, exemplified by low density.

Economic activity differs between the two extremes on the spectrum of population density. In the core areas, the economy is considered to be more diversified while in peripheral areas the economy is often dependant on one or two main activities. In BC, peripheral areas are highly dependant on resource extraction, particularly logging, and primary processing. Economic activity in these areas is vulnerable to fluctuations in demand for raw resources. These swings in demand for commodities are often referred to as boom and bust cycles. It follows that as economic activity increases in peripheral areas, 'in' migration also increases with the majority of the new residents coming from core areas, while as economic activity decreases in peripheral areas, 'out' migration increases with the majority of migrants moving to more densely populated areas. This expansion (or movement out of core areas to peripheral areas) is followed by a contraction (or movement from rural areas back to highly populated areas), which is then followed by another expansion.

Increased demand for resources not only results in higher prices, more job opportunities, and migration out of core areas, it also strengthens the provincial economy. This in turn makes BC attractive to people outside the province. The relative economic activity between BC and the rest of Canada (particularly Ontario and Alberta) is a good indicator of interprovincial migration. During economically robust times, migration out of core areas to the rest of the province increases, and interprovincial migration from the rest of the country to the province and to core areas also increases.



Again, the relative strength of the provincial economy as measured by GDP in relation to the rest of the country varies over time. Net *intra-provincial* (in minus out) migration for the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is highly negatively correlated with net *inter-provincial* migration for the GVRD.



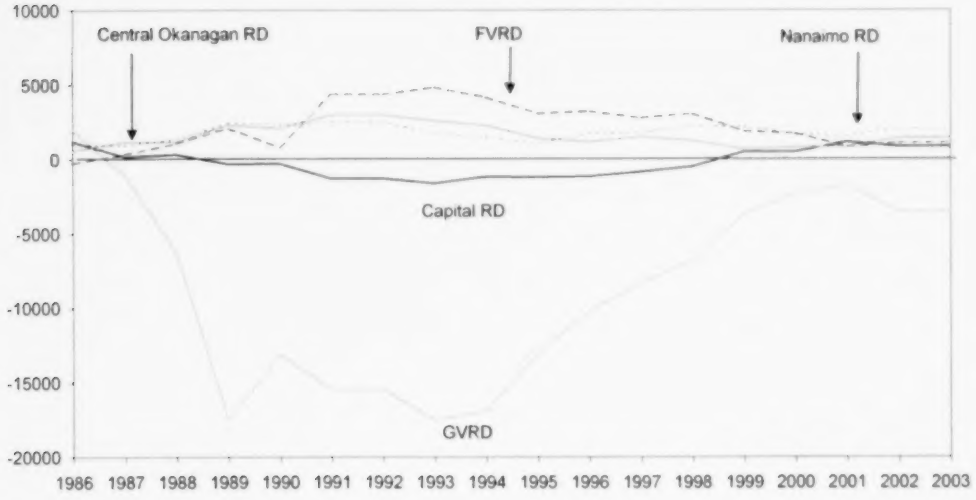
Although intraprovincial migration for the GVRD fluctuates it tends to be negative, contributing far more people to other RDs than it receives. Over the last fifteen years, 150,000 more people moved out of the GVRD than moved in to it from other parts of the province.

Intraprovincial migration to BC's second largest core area, the Capital RD is similar to that of the GVRD, albeit at a much smaller scale. Nonetheless, it also tends to contribute more migrants during 'boom' times, and receives more during 'down' times. Intraprovincial migration for these two core areas are highly positively correlated (+87%) but they are both highly negatively correlated with most of the rest of the province. If intraprovincial migration is used as a measure of economic hardship, the last 'down' time in the late nineties and early 2000 was not as bad as that of the early to mid eighties.

The regional districts that do not follow this tendency are the intermediate sized Fraser Valley (FVRD), Central Okanagan, and Nanaimo RDs. These RDs (with the exception of the FVRD in 1986) remained positive throughout time period – through both boom and bust times.

If this propensity for migrants to move between higher and lower density areas depending on levels of economic activity remains true for these intermediate areas, then people may be moving in from rural areas during 'down' times while people may be moving in from core areas during 'boom' times.

INTRAPROVINCIAL MIGRATION - SELECT RDs



Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

Call for our workshop calendar!

Intensive 2 Day Workshop

Survey Sampling & Questionnaire Design

This workshop will provide you with the proper tools necessary to prepare a survey that gets results! Learn to maximize the value of your survey results by selecting a sample that truly represents your population. Learn how to design an effective questionnaire that will give you the information you need.

Workshop Topics

Survey Planning

- Five steps to formulate your information needs
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing your response rates

Sampling Methods

- Sample types — simple random; systematic; stratified; cluster and multi-stage samples; area frames and exit surveys
- The factors affecting sample size

Questionnaires

- Motivating response and minimizing error
- Questionnaire design — how to avoid common pitfalls in wording, sequencing, and layout
- Question structure — open and closed questions, multiple choice, checklist, ranking, rating

Register today as space is limited!

Date & Location

- November 25 - 26, 2004
- 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
- Room 201 Library Square Office Tower
  300 West Georgia St., Vancouver

Join us for coffee at 8:15am

Fees

- **Regular fee: $550 (plus GST)**
- **Early bird fee: $500 (plus GST)**

(Register before Nov 12th for the early-bird rate)

- Group registration rates available (3 or more)

Refund Policy - Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less an administrative charge of $75, if written notice is received at least 3 business days prior to the workshop. Substitutions are permitted.

Registration

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Cheque Amount: _____

Visa/M-Card No.: _____

Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Federal Govt. only: Dept. #: _____ Org. #: _____ Reference #: _____

Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
#600-300 W. Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
Tel: (604) 666-1851
Fax to: (604) 666-6966

Make cheques and money orders payable to **Receiver General for Canada**

Statistics Canada will only use your information to complete this sales transaction, deliver your products(s), announce product updates and administer your account. From time to time, we may offer you other Statistics Canada products and services or ask you to participate in our market research. If you do not wish to be contacted again for promotional purposes ☐ and/or market research ☐, check the appropriate box(es) and fax or mail this page to us, or call 604 666 1851 or e-mail stcvan@statcan.ca

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Aussi disponible en français

Canada

Statistics Canada's Workshops

Call for our workshop calendar!

Census Workshops - Nanaimo, Vancouver, Victoria

The Census of Population is the most comprehensive source of data on the demographic, social and economic characteristics of Canadians. This introductory workshop is designed to acquaint new users with the wealth of information from this resource. The instructor will guide the class through the types of data available, their geographic organization, and the wide range of publications, electronic products, and services based on the Census.

Census Overview

- Background to the Census
- Content of the 2001 Census
- How Census data can be used
- Products and Services

Census Variables

- Income, ethnic origin, language, religion, occupation, housing, etc.

Join us for coffee at 8:15 am

Census Universes

- Population, families, households, dwellings

Census Geographies

- Census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, census subdivisions, census tracts, blocks, etc.

Fees

Regular Fee $200 plus GST
Early Bird $175 plus GST
(Register 2 weeks before the workshop date)

Register early! Space is limited!

NANAIMO	VANCOUVER	VANCOUVER	VICTORIA
November 30, 2004	**December 8, 2004**	**February 23, 2005**	**March 18, 2005**
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	8:30 am - 12:00 pm	8:30 am - 12:00 pm	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Coast Bastion Inn	Library Square	Library Square	Ambrosia Event Centre
11 Bastion St.	300 W. Georgia St.	300 W. Georgia St.	638 Fisgard St.
Nanaimo ☐	Vancouver ☐	Vancouver ☐	Victoria ☐

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

☐ Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Amex ☐ Cheque Amount (incl GST): _____

Card No: _____

Cardholder: _____ Exp. date: _____

Signature: _____

Fed. Govt. Dept# _____ Org# _____ Ref # _____

Refund Policy - Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less $75 administrative charge, if written notice is received at least 3 business days prior to the workshop. Substitutions are permitted at any time. Group rates are also available.

Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
#600-300 W. Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
Tel: (604) 666-1851
Fax to: **(604) 666-6966**

Make Cheque and Money Orders Payable to **Receiver General for Canada**

Statistics Canada will only use your information to complete this sales transaction, deliver your products(s), announce product updates and administer your account. From time to time, we may offer you other Statistics Canada products and services or ask you to participate in our market research. If you do not wish to be contacted again for promotional purposes ☐ and/or market research ☐, check the appropriate box(es) and fax or mail this page to us, or call 604 666 1851 or e-mail stcvan@statcan.ca.

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Aussi disponible en français

Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

Call for our workshop calendar!

Developing Satisfaction Surveys

THREE LOCATIONS! - VICTORIA, PRINCE GEORGE, VANCOUVER

This workshop teaches the fundamentals of designing and implementing an effective satisfaction survey. The course material will assist researchers in producing respondent friendly questionnaires that result in useful and accurate survey data. The course will also help to provide an understanding of the importance of client and employee satisfaction in strategic decision making and business planning. The unique aspects of this type of survey enable you to determine your client's service expectations and their perceptions of your organization's performance.

Survey Planning

- Performance measures
- Client satisfaction vs. employee satisfaction
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing response

Questionnaires

- Question structure; open and closed questions
- Rating scales
- Questionnaire design; wording, sequencing, and layout

Sampling Methods

- Probability vs. non-probability sampling
- Sample types and exit surveys
- The factors affecting sample size

Processing and Analysis

- The "drivers" of satisfaction
- Summarizing, graphing, and presenting survey findings

Register early!
Space is limited.

Regular Fee $550 + GST
Early Bird $500 + GST
Register 2 weeks before the workshop date

VICTORIA	PRINCE GEORGE	VANCOUVER
December 1-2, 2004	**February 15-16, 2005**	**March 2-3, 2005**
8:30 am - 4:30 pm	8:30 am - 4:30 pm	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Ambrosia Event Centre	Ramada Inn	Room 201 Library Square
638 Fisgard St.	444 George St	300 West Georgia St.
Victoria ☐	Prince George ☐	Vancouver ☐

Refreshments will be served throughout the day

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

☐ Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Amex ☐ Cheque Amount (incl GST): _____

Card No: _____

Cardholder: _____ Exp. date: _____

Signature: _____

Fed. Govt. Dept#: _____ Org#: _____ Ref #: _____

Refund Policy - Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less $75 administrative charge, if written notice is received at least 3 business days prior to the workshop. Substitutions are permitted at any time. Group rates are also available.

Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
#600-300 W. Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
Tel: (604) 666-1851
Fax to: **(604) 666-6966**

Make Cheque and Money Orders Payable to **Receiver General for Canada**

Statistics Canada will only use your information to complete this sales transaction, deliver your products(s), announce product updates and administer your account. From time to time, we may offer you other Statistics Canada products and services or ask you to participate in our market research. If you do not wish to be contacted again for promotional purposes ☐ and/or market research ☐, check the appropriate box(es) and fax or mail this page to us, or call 1 800 700-1033 or e-mail order@statcan.ca.

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Aussi disponible en français

Infoline

November 12, 2004

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/04	% change on one year ago
BC	4,196.4	1.1
Canada	31,825.4	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2003	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	145,550	5.2
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	133,600	2.5
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	32,175	1.6
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,758	0.3
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,659	1.7
Merchandise Exports - Sep	2,791	-1.4
Retail Sales - Aug	3,959	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Sep '04	% change
BC	123.5	1.8
Canada	124.9	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '04	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,247	0.4
Employed - BC	2,092	0.6
Unemployed - BC	156	-1.4
		Sep '04
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.9	7.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 10/04	Nov 12/03
Prime Business Rate	4.25	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.75
- 5 year	6.30	6.65
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 10/04	Nov 12/03
(avg noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.1980	1.3004
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.8375	0.7668
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '04	% change on one year ago
BC	704.14	3.1
Canada	685.08	2.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Make your own data tables!

Population data for a number of administrative boundaries in B.C. can now be accessed through a new procedure on the BC Stats web site. Instead of providing static html, the user can now select region type, region, year, sex and five-year age group through an interactive selection process for just the data they need, when they need it. This will allow BC Stats to make available updated population data through the web site faster than ever before. The user has the option of viewing the requested information on screen in their browser and/or downloading the data in spreadsheet friendly comma delimited format files.

Historical data are available by age group and sex; projections are freely available only for population.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/estspop.htm

Projected age-sex population data are available through our WebStore.

Life Expectancy at birth is also now available, using the same selection procedure, for a variety of different sub-provincial administrative boundaries.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/popstart.htm#vital

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, October 2004
- Tourism Sector Monitor, October 2004

Next week

- Exports, September 2004

BC STATS, Ministry of Management Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gems8.gov.bc.ca